No. 511|90 regarding counting of service in S-Grade or its equivalent grade in ARS is already under implementation.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Does not arise.

Rise in Cost of Fertilizer

1668. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cost of fertilizers has risen following partial withdrawal of fertiliser subsidy;

(b) if so, the effect of price rise on the use of fertilizers by the farmers; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating withdrawal of the remaining portion of the subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The consumer prices of fertilizers was increased by 40 per cent on an average w.e.f. 25-7-91 and later reduced to a 30 per cent increase w.e.f. 14-8-91.

The price of fertiliser is one of the variables which determine the extent of fertiliser consumption. These *inter alia* include (a) weather rainfall (b) the area under irrigated high yielding varieties (c) availability of credit etc. The consumption of fertiliser in 1991-92 is estimated to be higher than the consumption in 1990-91 though the rate of growth in fertiliser consumption was lower than anticipated.

(c) A Parliamentary Committee is currently looking into various aspects of fertiliser pricing and subsidy.

Import of Rice

1669. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import one million tonnes of rice in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Food Corporation of India failed in planning a proper procurement policy for rice; and

(d) what is the shortfall in procurement of rice as on this date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The possibility of importing some rice during 1992-93 to augment overall foodgrain stocks in tne Central Pool is being looked into.

(c) No, Sir. Paddy is procured under price support operations on voluntary basis and rice is collected in the form of levy from millers depending upon the quantum of paddy purchased by them.

(d) As on 17th July, 1992, the procurement of rice, including paddy in terms of rice, during kharif 1991-92 is 101.77 lakh tonnes as against 125.47 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period last year.

Supply of Sugar to Madhya Pradesh

1670. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Miinster of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Madhya Pradesh is being given sugar quota by Government on the basis of its 1986 population;

(b) if so, what arrangements Government propose to make sugar available to the population which has increased between 1986 to 1992;

(c) whether the State Administration has requested for increasing its quota of sugar to make it available for all in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, by when Government propose to increase the sugar quota for Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the basic monthly quota of levy sugar of Madhya Pradesh is based on its 1986 population. However, an ad-hoc increase of 5 percent in the aforesaid quota is being allowed to all State Governments/ Union Territories from August, 1991, which will continue till September, 1992, after which the position would again be reviewed.

(c) No such request from the State Government has been received recently.

(d) Increase in levy sugar quotas of States/Union Territories would depend upon the sustained increase in the levels of sugar production.

Allotment of Sugar, Wheat and Palmolein to Kerala

1671. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Kerala has requested the Government of India to enhance allotment of Sugar, wheat and Palmolein for July to October; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) A request has been received from the Kerala Government for additional allotment of 5000 tonnes of levy sugar for Onam festival. A quantity of 3600 tonnes of levy sugar has already been allotted as festival quota to the State of Kerala for the month of September, 1992.

As regards wheat, a request was received from the Kerala Government for enhancement of their monthly allotment to 50,000 tonnes per month, but keeping is view the availability of wheat is the Central Pool, they have been allotted 25,000 tonnes each month from June, 1992 to August, 1992.

A request was also received from the Government of Kerala for allocation of additional quantity of palmolein. Since palmolein is available only at Bombay and Kandla, Kerala Government have been requested to intimate whether they were prepared to lift palmolein oil from Bombay and Kandla. Their reply is still awaited.

Subsidy Paid to F.C.I.

1672. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Food Corporation of India has been subsidised heavily by Government;

(b) if so, what is the break up of subsidy paid to Food Corporation of India over the past six years;

(c) what is the likely amount of subsidy to be paid to Food Corporation of India during the current financial year; and

(d) whether Government propose to abolish this subsidy completely or reducing it substantially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The following amounts have been released/paid by the Government of India to the Food Corporation of